GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1477
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
EXPENDITURE COMMISSION
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Expenditure Commission has been constituted to review subsidies, expenditure etc; and

(b) if so, its composition and its terms of reference?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

( ) (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)
(a) and (b) : Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up byissue of a Government Resolution to this effect published in Gazettee of India extraordinary, Part I, Section I dated29.02.2000, with Shri K.P.Geethakrishanan, Former Finance Secretary as Chairman and four other members (including an Economist), with the terms of reference as follows:-
(1) Keeping in view the evolving role of Government, the need to foster convergence and avoiding overlap in the functions of different Central Government Ministries, Departments andattached organisations and the role of the State Governments, suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government;
(2) Review of framework of all subsidies, both explicit and implicit, examine the economic rationale for their continuance and make recommendations for making subsidies transparent and suggest measures for maximising their impact on the target population at minimum cost;
(3) Review the framework for determination of user charges of Departmental and commercial entities and suggest an effective strategy for cost recovery through user charges;
(4) Review the adequacy of staffing under Central Governmnet Ministries, attached offices and institutions and suggest measures for rationalising the staff and cadres of different services. In this context also review the existing arrangements for redeployment and re-training of surplus staff to ensure that any additional manpower for new areas of Government activities are met by re-deployment;
(5) Review the procedure for setting up of Governmentfunded autonomous institutions and their pattern of funding and suggest measures for effective improvement and reducing budgetary support for their activities; and
(6) Consider any other relevant issue concerning expenditure management in Government and make suitable recommendations.